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The *Rhodobacter sphaeroides* F₀F₁-ATPase activity: Effects of heavy metal ions and relationship with hydrogen photoproductionL. Gabrielyan¹, L. Hakobyan¹, A. Trchounian^{1,2}¹Yerevan State University, Department of Biophysics, Yerevan 0025, Armenia²Yerevan State University, Department of Microbiology & Plant and Microbe Biotechnology, Yerevan 0025, Armenia

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The important aspect in regulation of hydrogen (H₂) photo-production by purple bacteria and its energetics is the requirement of the F₀F₁-ATPase, the main membrane mechanism generating proton motive force [1,2]. Previously the relationship between H₂ production, proton transport and the F₀F₁-ATPase activity was shown by purple bacteria *Rhodobacter sphaeroides* [2]. It is well known that H₂ production varies depending on the different factors: anaerobic conditions, light intensity, pH, carbon and nitrogen sources, and heavy metals ions [3,4]. Fe, Ni and Mo ions are the components of enzymes, which are responsible for H₂ production by photosynthetic bacteria, such as hydrogenase and nitrogenase. Bacterial photosynthetic pigments such as bacteriochlorophyll contain Mg.

R. sphaeroides MDC 6521 (isolated from Arzni mineral springs in Armenia) is able to grow and produce H₂ in anaerobic conditions under illumination in the presence of various heavy metal ions [4]. In this study in order to examine the mediatory role of the F₀F₁-ATPase in H₂ production, the effects of metal ions (Ni²⁺, Mg²⁺, Mo⁶⁺, and Fe²⁺) on DCCD inhibited ATPase activity of *R. sphaeroides* membrane vesicles were investigated.

These metal ions in appropriate concentrations considerably enhanced H₂ production by *R. sphaeroides*. But H₂ production was not observed in the absence of Fe²⁺, indicating that Fe²⁺ is required for H₂ production. As was shown in our previous study [2] the *R. sphaeroides* membrane vesicles demonstrated significant ATPase activity. The absence of Fe²⁺ caused to marked inhibition (~80%) in ATPase activity. After treatment of membrane vesicles with Ni²⁺ (0.004 mM) and Mg²⁺ (10 mM) the ATPase activity stimulation was observed: the activity was increased by 15 and 30%, respectively. The Fe²⁺ (0.08 mM) and Mo⁶⁺ (0.016 mM) added gave a stimulated (~2.5 fold) ATPase activity.

These results indicate a relationship between the F₀F₁-ATPase activity and H₂ photoproduction. This provides novel evidence on the role of the F₀F₁-ATPase in H₂ production by this bacterium.

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doi:10.1016/j.bbabbio.2012.06.352

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Regulation of anaerobic glycolysis during work transitions in skeletal muscle: In silico studies

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The regulation of anaerobic glycolysis in response to elevated ATP demand at the onset of exercise in skeletal muscle is still not fully understood [1]. The computer model of the bioenergetic system in skeletal muscle, comprising oxidative phosphorylation, creatine kinase, anaerobic glycolysis and ATP usage developed previously [2] was used to study the regulation and impact on the system of anaerobic glycolysis during on- (rest-to-work) and off- (work-to-rest) transients. It is shown that changes in ADP_{free} and related metabolites cannot account for the huge increase in the glycolytic flux during on-transient. It is demonstrated that, while the postulated direct activation of glycolysis and glycogenolysis is able to elevate the glycolytic flux and decrease pH during muscle contraction significantly, great changes in oxygen concentration in the physiological range exert much smaller effect on the glycolytic flux and pH. Computer simulations reveal that anaerobic glycolysis slows down the VO₂ and PCr on-kinetics. It is also shown that anaerobic glycolysis removes the PCr recovery overshoot. Computer simulations predict, in accordance with experimental data [3], that PCr cannot be rebuilt after exercise in anoxia, although the concentration of ADP_{free}, an activator of glycolysis, is significantly increased. Finally, it is demonstrated that the relationship between the initial phase of the VO₂ off-kinetics and the PCr off-kinetics is inverse: the faster the initial phase of the VO₂ off-kinetics, the slower the PCr off-kinetics, and inversely. However, a faster initial phase of the VO₂ off-kinetics is associated with a slower late phase of this kinetics; as a result the integral of VO₂ (above the baseline) representing the total oxygen debt is identical in different cases for the same decrease of PCr during work.

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doi:10.1016/j.bbabbio.2012.06.353

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An analysis of amino acid residues which affect the structure of the ion flux pathway of the flagellar stator complex from *Bacillus subtilis*

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Many bacteria swim by rotating flagellar that consists of a basal body (rotary motor), a helical filament (propeller), and a hook (universal joint). The energy for rotation of the flagellar motor comes from the H⁺ or Na⁺ gradient across the cytoplasmic membrane. The motor consists of a rotor and some stators, that work as an ion channel. The stators are most often called a Mot complex, that is thought to contain four MotA subunits and two MotB subunits. *Escherichia coli*